2. (Twice Amended) An isolated Interleukin-16 (IL-16) antagonist peptide consisting of a sequence selected from the group consisting of RRKS (SEQ ID NO:2), RRTS (SEQ ID NO:3), KRKS (SEQ ID NO:4), RRAS (SEQ ID NO:5), RRKA (SEQ ID NO:6) and RRTA (SEQ ID NO:7).

REMARKS

Claims 2-33 and 35 are pending in the present application. Claims 2-32 are directed to isolated IL-16 antagonist peptides. Claim 33 is directed to an isolated nucleic acid molecule coding for an IL-16 antagonist peptide. Claim 35 is directed a pharmaceutical composition comprising an IL-16 antagonist peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In the Final Action dated June 6, 2002, claims 1-33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enabling support. Claim 35 is also separately rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enabling support. Claim 1-33 and 35 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

This Response addresses each of the Examiner's rejections and objections. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance or at least in a better condition for appeal. Favorable consideration of all pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 2-33 and 35 under §112, first paragraph, the Examiner admits that the specification is enabling for an isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 5, 6, 17, and 24 and for a composition comprising an isolated IL-16 antagonist peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 6, 17, and 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. However, the Examiner contends that the specification does not provide enablement for an (i.e., any) IL-16 antagonist peptide, or an IL-16 antagonist peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 3-4, 9-11, 13-16, 18-23, 25-32 and 34-38, or a composition comprising an IL-16 antagonist peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.